**SD FFA Foundation Board Meeting Minutes**

April 11, 2021 **@ 4:00 PM** MT, Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, Wyoming room and by zoom.

Members Present: John Lentz, We Hotchkiss, Jessica Knutson, Gerri Eide, Sandy Osterday, Brianna Fabris, Nathan Linke, Sarah Kroeger, Gretchen Sharp, Matilyn Kerr, Steven Zemlicka, Rebecca Christman, Cayla Graves

Minutes: group reviewed

Treasurer’s Report: Things are looking good, Mary Hanson account distributed scholarships, did not gain as much as the others.

Gerri will visit with board members scheduled to renew or rotate off the Board this year (Wes Hotchkiss and Rebecca & Shad Christman).

Green Thumb Commodities is new one star partner, starting July 1

Army ROTC is back on as a one-star partner

State Fair: We received grant funding toward the gazebo on south east portion of the lawn and kitchen. We discussed donating towards the new state fair livestock complex, since will be used heavily by FFA members. We will discuss more in July if donating and on what level. We discussed potentially supreme champion ($15,000) or Legacy Champion ($10,000) and doing it in multiple payments over three years and using the star partner general funds. Sandy will get in contact with fair manager to let her know we intend to support the building.

Looking for state fair livestock show sponsors, $750 they get their name on t-shirt and can provide a banner that will be hung at shows. They also get their name/logo in the FFA state fair book.

Beef show for FFA will be Thursday 4 pm at State Fair and beef will come in with 4-H animals

FFA Newsletter: Newsletter will come out in early May. Would like to include article showcasing online auction donations.

CHS came back as four-star partner. There is a new grant from them worth up to $5,000. Gerri applied for the grant with guidance from Brianna and Dani. It focused on a one day training for teacher and workshops for students. Will know April 30th.

Discussed loss of LG Seeds as a Star Partner. Rebecca and Steven both have contacts and will follow up to see if they can bring them back in July 2021.

Convention and Agri science fair sponsors: We received funding for all of the Agri science fair areas, so paid out 1-3rd place participants this year. We also filled in the missing proficiency award sponsor. Monument Health gave $2,500 tell help with broadcasting costs.

SD Nonprofit Building Cohort Class Update: After first class, Gerri reported she felt the board needs to develop a stronger mission statement. Also brought up starting a more formal major gifts program.

Ag Adventure Zone: Went well for a first year event. Gerri and Dani have been in contact with Sutton Rodeo to help make our presence and presentations more impactful next year. Farm Bureau, as the 2021 sponsor requested some changes to make the event even better and Nathan reported they would like to continue sponsoring the event next year. They also requested better recognition and signage next year. CTSO training has moved so it does not conflict with the stock show in 2022. Nathan also suggested Farm Bureau staff or members assist with training officers on advocating for agriculture before the event.

South Dakota Farm Credit Services of America is donating $45,000 and wants to know what are we are going to do with it. This was from an incentive program they offered to farmers who voted. The group decided to designate the following:

* $10,000 - FFA Ag Adventure Center Gazebo area construction at SD State Fair
* $10,000 - Leadership kits for all 95 FFA chapters  - that their advisors can use for chapter leadership retreats or training officer teams, and reuse for years to come.  We have 2 ag teachers heading this up.
* $2750 - 5 FFA jackets (sets of 10) - for new chapters so they have jackets on hand for members to use
* $22,250 - move Farm Credit Services of America from a 1 Star Partner (which you have been 2011) to a Distinguished Star Partner for the July 2021-June 2022 time frame.
* Any funds not used for above would go toward helping officers who attend ILSSO

Convention: Monday is the career carnival 38 attendees. Living to serve, tied fleece blankets, 375 asked for, chapters will be taking them home and dispersing in there communities. Take pictures with star partner banners for proof of being hung up. 1,735 students are registered. Still looking for land and range sponsors asking for $200.

Discussed that we bank with Wells Fargo and they are no longer a sponsor, and letting lots of their ag bankers go. Board recommended Gretchen put together a proposal for us to transition to a new bank and present at the July meeting.

Next meeting is July 25th in Watertown during SDAAE. Teacher budget committee starts at 10:30a.m., full board at 12 noon.

Submitted by Sarah Kroeger